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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/757,519	01/09/2001	Craig R. Home	N19.12-0051	8679

7590

08/08/2002

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EXAMINER

STRICKLAND, JONAS N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1754

DATE MAILED: 08/08/2002

17

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/757,519	HORNE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jonas N Strickland	1754	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 June 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,6-18 and 22-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6-10,17 and 22-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 11-16 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 was filed in this application after appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, but prior to a decision on the appeal. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the appeal has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114 and prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/20/02 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. This Office Action is in response to the RCE and remarks filed on 6/20/02 as Paper Nos. 15 and 16. Claims 1-3, 6-18 and 22-26 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3, 6-9, 17 and 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Koksbang (US Patent 5,549,880).

Koksbang discloses a lithium-vanadium oxide material having an electrolyte-binder support (col. 1, lines 22-29). The reference teaches that the product of the invention is in a small particle size on the order of 0.1 to 5 microns, and typically less

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than 10 microns (col. 2, lines 58-60). The battery has electrically conductive materials. Koksbang teaches wherein the lithium alkoxide is heated with the vanadium oxide compound (see abstract). Furthermore, Koksbang teaches that the particle size increases the performance of the cathode by not allowing large particles to break, which occurs during intercalation/disintercalation cycles; decreasing contact loss; improving contact between the active material and the conductive material, which allows higher current to be applied (col. 6, line 58 – col. 7, line 4).

With respect to claims 6-9 and 23, it would be inherent based on the diameter of the metal vanadium particles as taught by Koksbang, for the collection of particles and the battery to have a diameter greater than about 4 times the average diameter of the collection particles and to maintain the claimed distribution of particle sizes, because Koksbang teaches a metal vanadium oxide having an average diameter less than about 1 micron. Furthermore, Koksbang et al teaches wherein heating a mixture of vanadium oxide particles with a non-vanadium metal compound produces the metal vanadium oxide. Since, Koksbang teaches the same method for making the particles of metal vanadium oxide as instantly claimed and the size of the particles, it would be expected for the metal-vanadium particles of Koksbang to exhibit the same average diameter of the collection of active particles.

5. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Koksbang (US Patent 5,512,214).

Koksbang discloses a process for producing lithium-vanadium metal oxides. The reaction occurs more rapidly when the components are heated (col. 2, lines 44-46).

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Furthermore, Koksbang continues to disclose wherein the vanadium oxide has a starting particle size of less than 10 microns (col. 5, lines 1-6) and that smaller particle sizes are favorable, because the larger the surface area, the amount of current drawn from a battery is higher.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 11-16 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 6/20/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Koksbang does not disclose metal vanadium oxide particles with the instantly claimed average particle sizes or particle size distributions. Koksbang et al teaches a metal vanadium product having a small particle size on the order of 0.1 to 5 microns, which meets Applicant's particle size of less than 1 micron and less than 500 nm.

Applicant continues to argue that the method of making the metal-vanadium oxide particles in the present invention is distinct from Koksbang as discussed in the Response After-Final of 2/25/02. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., a solid state reaction with a dried lithium compound and vanadium oxide particles) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the

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specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., applying filtration technology to metal vanadium oxide particles and selecting a portion of a particle collection to form a resulting collection of particles) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonas N Strickland whose telephone number is 703-306-5692. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH. 7:30-5:00, off 1st Friday.

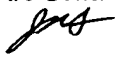
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley Silverman can be reached on 703-308-3837. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

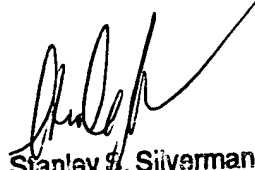
Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-0661.

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Jonas N. Strickland
August 7, 2002


Stanley S. Silverman
Supervisory Patent Examiner
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